BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-14 April 4, 2008

- **Visible minorities make up 25% British Columbia's population as of 2006**
- **Jobless rate climbs to 4.3% in March**
- **Room revenues increase 0.6% in December 2007**

Census

- **Over 200 ethnic origins were reported in British Columbia in the 2006 Census.** Among the most frequent ethnic origins reported were English, Scottish, Canadian, Irish and German. Only 11% of those with British Isles origins and 19% of those with European roots reported being foreign-born. In contrast, 72% of ethnic Chinese and 61% with East Indian origins reported being born outside of Canada.

  The number of people who reported belonging to a visible minority in British Columbia passed the one-million mark (1,008,900) in 2006. This number represents 25% of the provincial population, the highest of all provinces and territories. Most of BC's visible minorities resided within Vancouver (87%) with about 3% living in each of Victoria and Abbotsford. BC's largest visible minority group was Chinese, accounting for 40% of all visible minorities and one-tenth (10%) of the population of the province. South Asians (6%), with ancestral backgrounds from India, Pakistan and Punjab, and Filipinos (2%) were the second and third largest visible minority groups respectively.

  Nationally, an estimated 5,068,100 people, or 16.2% of the population, reported belonging to a visible minority in 2006, up from 13.4% in 2001 and 11.2% in 1996. South Asians (25%), Chinese (18%) and Blacks (16%) were the largest visible minority groups, accounting for 16% of the population of Canada.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of people whose place of work was in the City of Vancouver area rose 6.0% to 331,300 in 2006.** This increase jumped to 9.7% in the surrounding municipalities of Surrey, Burnaby and Richmond. Commuting distances got shorter for workers in and around Vancouver as the median commuting distance decreased from 7.6 kilometres in 2001 to 7.4 kilometres in 2006. A smaller proportion of people drove to work in 2006 (67%) compared to 2001 (72%), as the number of workers relying on alternative forms of transportation, such as taking public transit (17%), walking (6%) and cycling (2%), grew. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Labour Force

- **The jobless rate in British Columbia rose 0.2 percentage points to 4.3% in March as the labour force grew (+0.8) faster than the number individuals with jobs (+0.6).** Job growth was particularly strong among the self-employed (+1.9%). BC's public sector shed 2,000 jobs (-0.5%) while employment in the private sector expanded 0.6%. Numbers of both part-time (+1.2%) and full-time (+0.5%) positions in the province were up in March.

  Nationally, the unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 6.0% in March, due to an expansion (+0.3%) in the number of entrants to the labour force. Western Canada continued to have the lowest rates of unemployment in March as British Columbia and Manitoba had the third lowest unemployment rate at 4.3% with Saskatchewan (4.1%) and Alberta (3.4%) rounding out the second lowest and the lowest jobless rates in the country.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Job growth was strong in the goods sector, increasing 2.5% in March compared to the**

Report

Eat, Drink and Be Merry: BC's Food Services and Drinking Places Industry

Did you know...
In 2006, Canadians spent an average of 20% out of their household budget on personal income taxes. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

previous month, with all major industries expanding their workforces. The largest rise in employment was in the always volatile utilities industry (+9.0%), with manufacturing (+3.0%) and construction (+2.3%) also adding substantially to the number of positions offered. Employment in agriculture (+0.8%) and forestry, fishing & mining (+0.4%) increased slightly as well.

Service sector employment inched 0.1% higher in March. A sharp downturn in finance, insurance & real estate (-9.3%), information, culture & recreation (-3.6%) and education (-1.2%) almost completely offset job growth in public administration (+2.3%), accommodation & food (+1.5%), transportation & warehousing (+1.4%), trade (+1.3%) and 'other' services (+9.8%). The number of jobs in health care & social assistance, the largest employer in the service sector, remained virtually unchanged in March. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The year-over-year unemployment rate in Northeast jumped 0.6 percentage points to 3.8% (*3-month moving average*) in March, marking the first time since December 2006 that the region did not have the lowest unemployment rate in the province.** Although Kootenay had the lowest unemployment rate (3.3%) in BC, the region saw a relatively large decrease (-6.2%) in the number of jobs as well as a significant contraction (-8.8%) in the labour force.

  Both employment (+2.9%) and the labour force (+2.9%) saw similar increases in March, leaving the unemployment rate in Mainland/Southwest virtually unchanged at 3.7%. In Vancouver Island/Coast, however, a rise in the number of individuals employed pushed the region's jobless rate down to 5.2%.

  An increase in the labour force (+2.7%) surpassed the rise in employment (1.9%) in Thompson/Okanagan causing the unemployment rate to rise 0.9 percentage points to 5.8% in March. As was the case in Cariboo, where unemployment increased to 6.8%.

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

  Rates for Northeast, as well as some cities, are BC Stats estimates, calculated using data supplied by Statistics Canada.

The Economy

- **Average weekly earnings of payroll employees in British Columbia dipped $0.48 (-0.1%) to $767.80 (*seasonally adjusted*) in January.** At the industrial level, earnings were up in utilities (+2.1%) and educational services (+1.2%), but were off in both construction (-2.8%) and manufacturing (-1.1%). Compared with a year earlier, average weekly earnings were up 1.9%. Nationally, average weekly earnings stood at $785.14, an increase of $4.38 (+0.6%) from December. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

  Average weekly earnings data presented here is based on the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH).

Room Revenues

- **Although BC room revenues were up (+0.6%) in December, there was a mix of positive and negative growth rates across the province.** Half of the regions, including Nechako (-4.6%), Kootenay (-3.9%), Vancouver Island/Coast (-1.6%) and Thompson/Okanagan (-1.1%), recorded a drop in revenues following increases in the previous month. However, Northeast (+1.4%) maintained an upward trend, while returns at accommodations in North Coast (+0.3%) were higher following November's poor performance. Cariboo (+2.1%) posted gains for the third consecutive month, and Mainland/Southwest (+2.3%) led the province in growth. *Data Source: BC Stats*

The Nation

- **Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.6% in January, rebounding from the 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) decline registered in December 2007.** Growth in the economy was wide-spread, with both the goods (+0.8%) and service (+0.5%) sectors showing strong gains. Leading the way were wholesale trade (+2.8%) and manufacturing (+1.7%). The increase in manufacturing had trickle-down effects which contributed to a GDP increase in the transportation sector (+1.0%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Infoline *Issue: 08-14*
April 4, 2008

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

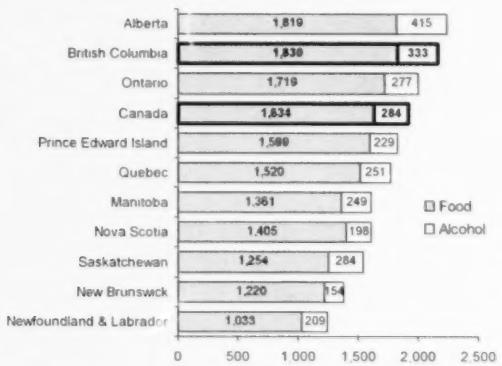
Contact: Neal Dobinson
(250) 387-1124
Originally published in
Tourism Sector Monitor Issue 08-02

Eat, Drink and Be Merry: BC's Food Services and Drinking Places Industry

In 2006, the average BC household spent $1,830 on restaurant meals, the highest expenditure among the provinces and more than a quarter (26%) of the total food budget. Although significantly less ($333) was spent on alcoholic beverages served at licensed premises, this represented more than a third (34%) of total household expenditures on alcohol. Overall, BC ($2,163) has the second highest per household consumption of food and alcohol purchased from restaurants and licensed premises in Canada. Although household food expenditures in Alberta ($1,819) were lower than BC's, alcohol purchases ($415) were 25% higher.[1]

Only Albertans spend more at restaurants and licensed premises than BC residents

Average expenditure per household in 2006 ($) - food and alcohol purchased from restaurants and licensed premises



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Note that the initial release of this article erroneously used the term per capita in the first paragraph. The reference to licensed premises is also added. We apologize for any inconvenience. BC Stats, April 11, 2008

BC's industry is the third largest in Canada

The food services and drinking places industry is an important segment of the BC economy, accounting for $2.6 billion—about 2%—of the province's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2006. Tourists represent a significant market for the industry, with about a quarter of its GDP generated by tourism-related activities. There are more than 12,000 food service establishments, providing employment for about 1 in 10 workers in BC's service sector.[2]

According to data from Statistics Canada's Monthly Survey of Food Services and Drinking Places, the BC industry earned about $7.6 billion in revenues during 2007. Over the 1998 to 2007 period, provincial receipts averaged 16% of national sales, the third highest in the country after Quebec (20%) and Ontario (38%).

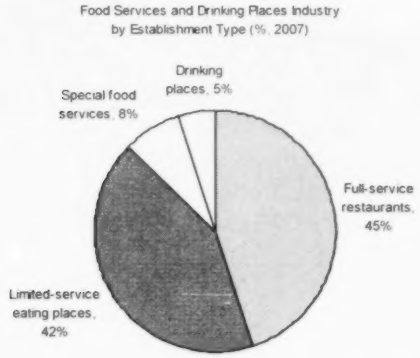
Structure of the industry

The food services and drinking places industry includes full-service restaurants (patrons order while seated and pay after eating), limited-service eating places (patrons order at a counter, and/or by phone and pay before eating), special food services (including food service contractors, social caterers and mobile food services) and drinking places such as bars, nightclubs and taverns. Most establishments are either full-service restaurants (45%) or limited-service eating places (42%). Special food services comprise 8% while only 5% are drinking places.

[1] Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Household Spending in 2006

[2] Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

Nine out of ten establishments are full- or limited-service restaurants

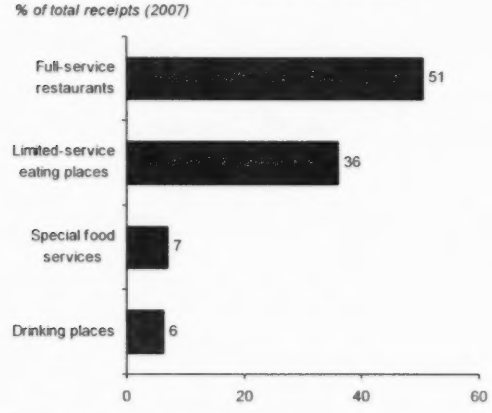

Food Services and Drinking Places Industry
by Establishment Type (%, 2007)
Drinking places, 5%
Special food services, 8%
Full-service restaurants, 45%
Limited-service eating places, 42%

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Revenues at food service and drinking establishments

Full-service restaurants accounted for just over half (51%) of total provincial receipts in 2007, estimated at $3.9 billion. Limited-service eating places generated $2.8 billion (36%), while the remainder was split between special food services ($544 million, 7%) and drinking places ($480 million, 6%).

Most of the industry's revenues are generated by full-service restaurants

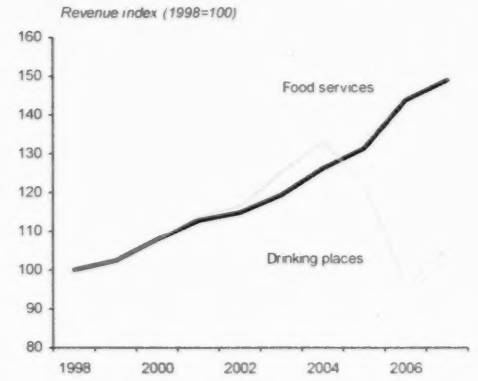


Data Source: Statistics Canada

From 1998 to 2007, BC's food services and drinking places industry experienced a 45.1% increase in receipts, almost identical to the national average (+45.3%). Growth in the industry has been driven by the food services sector (full-service restaurants, limited-service eating places and special food services), which recorded a 48.8% gain.

Revenue growth at drinking places was keeping pace with the food services sector up to 2004, but took a dive in 2005 and 2006 while revenues at food service establishments continued to increase. Although sales at the province's bars, nightclubs and taverns rebounded (+10.0%) in 2007, they are still below 2000 levels. Overall, total receipts rose only 5.8% from 1998 to 2007.

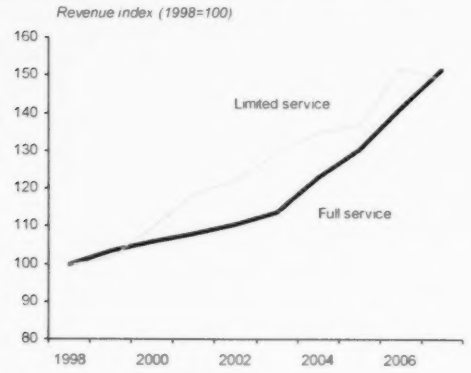
Sales trending up in food services; drinking places saw declines in 2005 and 2006



Data Source: Statistics Canada

With respect to the restaurant segment of the industry, sales at full-service (+51.5%) and limited-service (+48.9%) restaurants increased at similar rates over the 1998 to 2007 period. From 1998 to 2003, revenue growth at limited-service eating places was more than twice the rate at full-service establishments. There was a shift in the industry in 2004 as full-service sales picked up and began to outperform their limited-service counterparts.

Revenue growth at limited-service eating places has lost ground in recent years

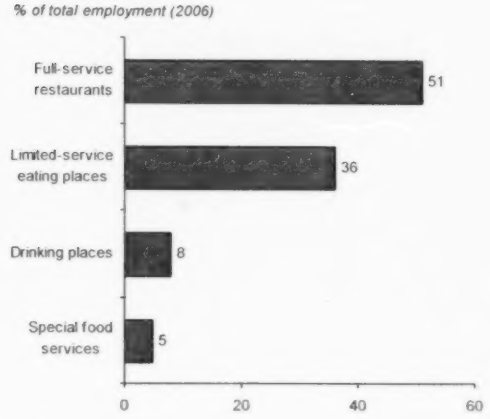


Data Source: Statistics Canada

Employment

In 2006, there were about 135,000 people employed in BC's food services and drinking places industry, which accounted for 9% of jobs in the service sector.[3] Most workers (51%) were employed at full-service restaurants, while more than a third (36%) worked at limited-service eating places. Drinking places (8%) and special food services (5%) employed a relatively small share of workers in the industry.

Half of the jobs in the industry are at full-service restaurants



Data Source: Statistics Canada

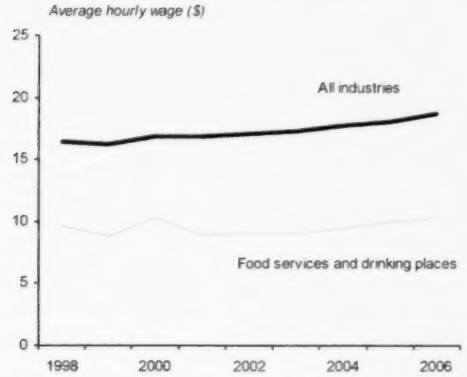
From 1998 to 2006, employment at food service establishments and drinking places increased faster (+23.2%) than the all-industry average (+19.5%). Employment growth has been driven by limited-service eating places, which generated about half (49%) of new jobs in the industry during this period.

Hourly and weekly earnings

Jobs in the food services and drinking places industry are relatively low paid. The average wage for workers paid by the hour in 2006 was $10.33, well below the average for all industries ($18.67). In addition, wages in the industry grew slower (+6.4%) than the all-industry average (+13.7%) from 1998 to 2006.

[3] Employment and earnings data is based on information from Statistics Canada's Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH). The SEPH data provides more detailed estimates at the industry level compared to the Labour Force Survey. However, employment estimates from SEPH exclude the self-employed and therefore underestimate the size of the workforce.

Below-average wages characterize the food services and drinking places industry



Data Source: Statistics Canada

In 2006, employees who were paid by the hour earned $238 per week on average. In comparison, weekly wages across all industries ($580) were more than double those in the food services and drinking places industry.

However, wage data tends to underestimate the earnings of workers in this industry, as their income is supplemented with tips received from customers. It is reasonable to assume that average weekly wages could be 10-15% higher than the SEPH estimates indicate if tips are taken into account.

Worker characteristics[4]

Relatively low earnings in the industry reflect the extent to which employers rely on part-time workers. Four in ten (41%) employees in the food services and drinking places industry worked on a part-time basis (less than 30 hours per week) in 2006. This was well above the average for all industries (20%).

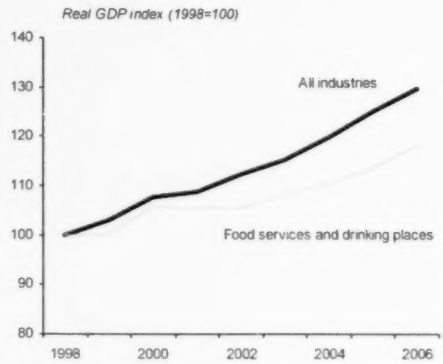
In addition, below-average wages also reflect the high proportion of younger workers in the industry. Although the age distribution of the workforce is not available specifically for the food services and drinking places industry, data for the accommodation and food services industry indicates that 43% of employees in 2006 were between the ages of 15 and 24. This was significantly higher than the average for the service sector and the total provincial workforce (each at 16%). These findings suggest that the industry is an important source of entry-level employment opportunities for young people.

The unemployment rate in the industry averaged 4.9% in 2006, similar to the all-industry average (4.8%). Compared to the service sector (3.0%), workers in the food services and drinking places industry were more likely to be unemployed at some point during the year. This is not a surprising result, given the number of 15-24 year olds in the industry's workforce, who tend to experience the highest unemployment rates.

Industry growth

In 2006, the industry's GDP advanced 4.0% to $2.6 billion, above the all-industry average (+3.6%). However, GDP growth in the industry is typically slower than the BC economy as a whole. From 1998 to 2006, food services and drinking places recorded an 18.2% increase in economic output, below the rate for all industries (+29.6%).

The industry's GDP has increased steadily since 2003



Data Source: Statistics Canada

[4] Information in this section is based on data from the Labour Force Survey.

Although the food services and drinking places industry stalled in 2001 and 2002, its GDP growth has been steady since 2003. The performance of this industry is closely linked to overall economic conditions, and when the economy is expanding, people tend to spend more on discretionary expenditures such as eating out at restaurants and pubs. As consumer spending is forecast to remain strong over the next few years, the food services and drinking places industry will likely continue to reap the benefits.

New Workshop

Statistics Canada Summer Data Institute

The Summer Data Institute is a 2-day hands-on data analysis workshop conducted in a computer-equipped classroom. Statistical software is used to produce quantitative measures on data from a standard Statistics Canada public use microdata file. While some time is given to discussion of the conceptual basis, methodology and theoretical applications of the statistics, the emphasis in this workshop is on exercises using the software to produce and interpret statistics from the microdata file to address practical research questions.

Statistical techniques covered in the workshop include:

- Frequency distributions and graphing techniques
- Measures of central tendency and dispersion
- Cross-tabulations and contingency tables
- Correlations
- Simple and multiple regressions

The workshop is appropriate for beginner to intermediate level analysts in the public and private sectors, as well as members of the academic community interested in learning how to use data to answer "real world" questions.

The Summer Data Institute is being offered in SPSS-equipped computer classrooms at the University of Victoria and Camosun College. Statistics Canada's General Social Survey Cycle 19 public use microdata file provides the data to be used in the workshop, which is led by an experienced Statistics Canada course instructor.

Register early, Space is limited. Price: $499 + GST = $528.94.

University of Victoria
May 6-7, 2008
8:30 am—4:30 pm
Human & Social Development Building
Room # to be confirmed

Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus
3100 Foul Bay Road
June 3-4, 2008
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Ewing Building, Room 112

Other course offering:
A 1-day GIS workshop is offered at Camosun College on June 5, 2008. For more information visit: www.camosun.ca/ce/registrar.

REGISTRATION

□ University of Victoria or □ Camosun College

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Visa___ M/C___ Amex__ Cheque__ Amount (incl. GST): _____

Card No: _____

Cardholder: _____Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Fed. Govt: Dept#: _____ Org#: _____ Ref#: _____

Refund Policy—Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded, less $75 administration charge, if written notice is received at least 3 business days prior to the workshop. Substitutions are permitted at any time. Group rates are also available.

Return form with payment to:
Workshop Registrar
Statistics Canada
Suite 574, 220—4th Ave. SE
Calgary, AB T2G 4X3
Tel: (403) 292-6677
Fax: (403) 292-5994

Please Make Cheque and Money Orders Payable to **Receiver General of Canada**

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Infoline

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Issue 08-14

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also on the **Internet** at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,414.0	1.5
Canada	33,143.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	180,328	6.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	158,335	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	36,649	1.9
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	24,051	5.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jan	3,370	-0.4
Merchandise Exports - Jan	2,339	3.0
Retail Sales - Jan	4,811	-0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Feb 2008)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.1	1.5
Vancouver	1.3	1.8
Victoria	0.5	0.9
Canada	1.8	2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Mar '08	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,422	0.8
Employed - BC	2,318	0.6
Unemployed - BC	104	5.1
		Feb '08
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.3	4.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.0	5.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Apr 2/08	Apr 4/07
Prime Business Rate	5.25	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.15	6.40
- 5 year	7.19	6.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Apr 2/08	Apr 4/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0177	1.1584
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9866	0.8627
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Mar '08	one year ago
BC	761.02	2.4
Canada	767.70	4.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

The price is right

Starting April 1, current subscription periodicals will be free to browse and download on our web site. All users will have free access both to the articles and data tables in PDF format. Paper-format periodicals and subscriptions will continue to be priced.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/releases/free_rel.asp

High Technology - 2007

Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector - 2007 Edition

This publication highlights conditions affecting the province's high technology sector from a supply-side perspective by tracking 37 business and economic climate indicators for BC, with comparisons to other provinces.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp#HTpubs

Topic Tables – 2006 Census

What are the top languages spoken at home in your community? Where were a community's immigrants born? A different approach.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/topics/topics.asp

2007 Municipal Populations

Total population for municipalities and Regional Districts for July 1, 2007, as well as revised figures for 2002 to 2006, are now online.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estspop.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, March 2008
- 2006 Census: on April 2, Ethnic Origin; Visible Minorities
- Labour Force Statistics, March 2008
- Earnings & Employment Trends, March 2008
- **Next week**
- Exports, February 2008

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